

Maryland Child Abuse Medical Professionals (CHAMP)

2015 Annual Report - DRAFT

July 23, 2015

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Funding for CHAMP is provided in part by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Office of Surveillance and Quality Initiatives.

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BACKGROUND

In 2005, the Maryland legislature approved House Bill 1341 “*Public Health – Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative.*” This authorized the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to help develop a network of physician experts in the area of child abuse and neglect in Maryland. The initial priority was to help underserved counties have expert medical consultation to assist in the evaluation, treatment and prevention of child maltreatment. A three-year contract was awarded, starting in September 2006, to the University of Maryland School of Medicine to lead this initiative. The Initiative was renamed Maryland CHAMP in 2008 when 13-2201-2206, Annotated Code of Maryland was amended. This contract was renewed for another 3 years starting on 7/1/12, and a new MOU between the DHMH and the University of Maryland School of Medicine was approved for three years in July, 2014.

CHAMP GOALS

The goals have evolved since the initiation of CHAMP. These are:

1. To ensure an optimal medical response to children in Maryland suspected of having been abused or neglected, and their families.
2. To develop a statewide network of physicians and forensic nurse examiners – pediatrics (FNE-Ps), to provide a variety of services regarding child maltreatment. In addition to training new physicians as experts in the field of child maltreatment, we include in the network other physicians and nurses who have been active in this field.
3. To collaborate with those in other disciplines and agencies, particularly child advocacy centers (CACs).
4. To build efforts by pediatric health care providers regarding the prevention of child maltreatment.
5. To train related professionals in optimally recognizing and responding to suspected child maltreatment.

GOVERNANCE

The project is led by the University of Maryland School of Medicine, specifically the Division of Child Protection within the Department of Pediatrics. The program director, Howard Dubowitz, MD, MS, FAAP is Head of the Division of Child Protection. The program’s part time administrative assistant is within the Division. CHAMP also has a program manager, Richa Renade, MPH, based within the DHMH. The goal is that faculty together with the DHMH lead the program.

CHAMP has a core faculty of 6 other pediatricians and one forensic nurse examiner, all experts in child abuse and neglect. These are: Leena Dev, MD, (Baltimore City), Howard Dubowitz, MD, MS (Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County), Mitchell Goldstein, MD, MBA (Baltimore City), Scott Krugman, MD, MS (Baltimore County), Wendy Lane, MD, MPH (Baltimore City and Howard County), Evelyn Shukat, MD (Montgomery County) and Pamela Holtzinger, RN, FNE-A/P (Frederick and Washington Counties). Dr. Charles Shubin is an emeritus faculty member. The faculty helps develop and implement CHAMP.

LEADERSHIP

The CHAMP director and faculty, with support from the program manager and DHMH staff, are responsible for developing and leading the program. This includes:

- Providing a vision for CHAMP and developing strategies for achieving its goals
- Developing and providing initial and ongoing training of physicians
- Training and maintaining physicians
- Training and maintaining forensic nurse examiners – pediatrics (FNE-Ps)
- Providing peer review for network participants (via TeleCAM)
- Ensuring CQI and high quality work
- Evaluating the program
- Developing policies and practice guidelines to improve the systems' response to children and families with concerns of possible abuse or neglect
- Providing expert medical consultation when child maltreatment concerns arise
- Collaborating with the Maryland DHMH

Faculty work is done through monthly faculty meetings as well as regular electronic and phone communications.

ACHIEVEMENTS: 7/1/14 - 6/30/15

- **CHAMP Practitioners** Drs. Wehberg and Porter continued to offer child maltreatment consultation. They have established themselves as the local child maltreatment medical experts, participating as members of multidisciplinary teams and providing consultation services. We reach out to these physicians periodically to provide support. In addition, we offer meetings with them three times a year, prior to the CHAMP trainings. They are funded by CHAMP; we refer to them as CHAMP practitioners. Efforts to replace Dr. Haworth in Allegheny County were not successful as yet, nor was a physician been identified for Prince George's County.
- **Physicians in the CHAMP Network** - Six physicians worked as network participants. All have been working part-time in the child abuse field and participate in our regular training sessions: Drs. Paul Lomonico (Harford), Fayette Engstrom (Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Kent and Queen Anne's), Karla Paylor (Frederick County), Cynthia Rolden (Carroll), Michelle Chadow (Baltimore County) and Steven Breslow (Cecil County). These physicians are not funded by CHAMP; we refer to them as physicians in the CHAMP network.
- **Nurses in the CHAMP Network** – There are approximately 65 nurses who have participated in the CHAMP Network. They represent counties from across the state, providing services within child advocacy centers and hospital emergency departments. Some are Forensic Nurses Examiners (FNE-Ps). Others are training to become FNE-Ps and receive education and training through CHAMP to attain their FNE-P status. Nurses are not funded by CHAMP. Feedback from nurses has been extremely positive regarding the helpfulness of the trainings and support of the Network.

- **CHAMP Core Curriculum** – The curriculum will be updated by 8/31/15. It will cover the main types of maltreatment, the materials and modalities for imparting the information, as well as an evaluation tool.
- **Formalizing CHAMP Affiliation** – We finalized criteria for involvement in the CHAMP network (see Appendix) and established those who qualified to be members. Several resources are offered to network members: TeleCAM support, on call access of CHAMP faculty, CHAMP website, including programs and materials to support network members in their local efforts. The advent of affiliation criteria will hopefully encourage increased participation in training and consultation, while helping to ensure high quality work by network members.
- **CHAMP Trainings** – CHAMP trainings and CME credits are offered three times annually, in October, February, and June (agendas are in the Appendix). Trainings were very well received. Participants often comment regarding the collaborative learning environment, regardless of whether one is a nurse or physician. This past year, due to technical difficulties, we were unable to provide the trainings via webinar. We anticipate this being remedied soon.
- **Support for CHAMP physicians** – one way to provide additional support to CHAMP physicians is meeting with them before the training sessions to discuss “systems” issues. This presents an excellent opportunity to support them as they develop in their roles as local or regional experts. Ongoing training also occurs via case consultation, TeleCAM reviews, email and intermittent conversations.
- Dr. Dubowitz regularly disseminates **brief research reports and news updates** to the CHAMP listserv.
- **TeleCAM** – TeleCAM is a secure web-based program where medical professionals can upload patient evaluations (history and photodocumentation) to receive consultation from the CHAMP faculty. When a new case is posted to TeleCAM, several members of the CHAMP faculty quickly review the case and provide feedback to the person who requested the feedback, thus providing expert consultation on child maltreatment evaluations statewide. TeleCAM continues to be a valuable resource for CHAMP network members.

There were 110 new cases posted, up from 95 in the previous year. In addition, several past users reengaged in it, and several new participants started using it. Feedback continues to demonstrate that TeleCAM is an important resource for members of the network. We worked with TeleCAM to substantially improve the website this past year. Efforts are ongoing to induce more members to use the system.

- **CHAMP Website (www.mdchamp.org)** – The CHAMP website provides numerous resources, including: where to locate child maltreatment consultants, mental health resources, community resources to refer families to, as well as guidelines for referring children for medical evaluations. We have been transitioning the website so that it will be hosted on the DHMH website. This should bolster its visibility.

- **Child Welfare Academy** – The Child Welfare Academy, at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, provides training to Maryland Department of Social Services staff. CHAMP faculty provide training at the Child Welfare Academy throughout the year. Through this exciting opportunity, faculty interact directly with social services workers from across the state. Training topics include: basic training on physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect, advanced topics in physical abuse, failure to thrive, medical child abuse, sexually transmitted infections, drug exposed newborns and children, healthcare needs of foster youth and the medical home.

During this past fiscal year, three CHAMP faculty provided 1 webinar and two full-day trainings for the Child Welfare Academy. October 7, 2014 - Webinar on Abusive Head Trauma; November 13, 2014 - Medical Aspects of Child Abuse and Neglect- Advanced Topics I: Physical Abuse, Failure to Thrive, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and Medical Child Abuse; December 16, 2015 - Medical Aspects of Child Abuse and Neglect - Advanced Topics II: Healthcare Needs of Foster Youth and the Medical Home, Drug Exposed Newborns and Children, Understanding Child Development and Behavior, and Prevention of Child Maltreatment.

We are working with Jennifer Kelman, CWA Director, to review feedback from the trainings and make revisions in anticipation of another series of trainings in Fall, 2015.

- **Maryland Children’s Alliance (MCA)** – The MCA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Maryland child advocacy centers, while also providing training and education regarding child maltreatment. Collaboration with the Maryland Children’s Alliance continued during this year. We will be presenting on medical topics to non-medical professionals at the annual conference in October 2015. The conference provides an excellent opportunity to collaborate with the MCA, as well as to connect with a multidisciplinary audience from across the state.
- **Healthy Tomorrows** - The Healthy Tomorrows project, the Baltimore Citywide Child Protection Team (BCCPT), provides consultation and care coordination for children with suspected physical abuse in Baltimore City. The CHAMP program manager participates in the bi-weekly multidisciplinary team meetings (MDTs) to review cases of suspected abuse and to communicate with primary care physicians. Follow-up with primary care providers includes ensuring they are aware that their patient has been evaluated for maltreatment, sharing relevant psychosocial information with the practice, providing specific recommendations for medical, mental health, and developmental follow-up, and working with the practice to obtain some follow-up services (e.g. skeletal surveys). During the last project year, 902 children with suspected abuse were evaluated in the Emergency Department, 371 received MDT review, and 185 received care coordination services. Of the 387 patients receiving expert review over a 6-month period, 16 (4.2%) had a change in diagnosis as a result of expert review. Feedback from primary care providers has been very positive. Eighty-three percent of providers felt that the information provided by BCCPT would help them meet the physical health care needs of their patients, and 87.5% felt that the information would help them better meet their mental health care needs. The

information provided by BCCPT changed the health care management plan for 70% of patients.

- **Training Law Enforcement in Maryland** - In order to train Maryland law enforcement on child maltreatment, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded this project (Sub-award number CJAC 2012-1204). Drs. Dubowitz trains law enforcement, police cadets and school police across the state of Maryland to strengthen their recognition of and response to suspected child maltreatment. Our training video is now available for free to police across the state on the GOCCP website, (<http://www.goccp.maryland.gov/juvenile/cjac.php>). Between October 2014 and June 2015, 5 trainings were provided to law enforcement, reaching 184 officers and cadets. Evaluations have been very positive.

PROPOSED PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

CHAMP has continued to develop and progress. Plans for the upcoming year include:

- Continue to support and nurture the programs in Wicomico and Garrett counties
- Train and support a new physician in Calvert County, and work with the new physician in the Eastern Shore.
- Engage new practitioners in Allegany, Charles and Prince George's counties.
- Complete the updating of the CHAMP Curriculum.
- Continue to develop the CHAMP network, including other physicians and forensic nurse examiners – pediatrics (FNE-PS)
- Support efforts to have CHAMP physicians visit primary care practices in their county to help raise awareness of child maltreatment and demystify the reporting process to child protective services
- Continue to collaborate with the Maryland Children's Alliance in providing training at their annual conference
- Improve TeleCAM participation
- Continue to update and develop the CHAMP website
- Complete transition of the CHAMP website to the DHMH website
- Continue to provide training to statewide DSS workers via the Child Welfare Academy
- Continue to provide training to law enforcement, statewide via CJAC funding
- Continue to organize three half-day trainings for CHAMP network members
- Offer the CHAMP trainings via webinar
- Help develop or implement interventions to prevent child maltreatment
- Work on improving statewide payment structure for medical professionals in the child abuse field
- Continue collaborating with state/local partners
- Meet with DHMH and DHR to develop a process and capacity for ensuring medical evaluations of children suspected of having been maltreated.
- Consider a model of 24/7 on call medical expert for CPS agencies
- Meet with DHMH and other state agencies and organizations to bolster CHAMP funding
- Work with SCCAN in prioritizing health needs of children with suspected maltreatment

Appendix A: Maryland CHAMP Training Agendas

Maryland Child Abuse Medical Professionals (CHAMP)

Fall Training Agenda

October 9, 2014

12:30 – 12:55	Lunch
12:55 – 1:00	Greetings and Welcome Howard Dubowitz, MD, MS Director, CHAMP Program
1:00 – 2:30	SALI- Sexual Assault and the Law Jessica Powers-Heaven, Esq. Staff Attorney, Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI) Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 3:15	Research, Policy and Clinical Issues Howard Dubowitz, MD, MS
3:15 – 5:00	Case Review Mitchell Goldstein, MD CHAMP Program Faculty

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Winter Training Agenda

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

12:30 – 12:55 Lunch

12:55 – 1:00 Greetings and Welcome

Howard Dubowitz, MD, MS

Director, CHAMP Program

1:00 – 2:30 Maryland State Police Crime Lab

Argi Magers

Forensic Scientist Manager, Biology Section

MSP Forensic Sciences Division

2:30 – 3:30 TeleCAM Demonstration

Tricia Goede

3:30 – 3:45 Break

3:45 – 5:00 Case Review

Leena Dev, MD, FAAP

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Spring Training Agenda

June 9, 2015

12:30 – 12:55	Lunch
12:55 – 1:00	Greetings and Welcome Leena Dev, MD, FAAP Director of Medical Services, Baltimore Child Abuse Center CHAMP Program Faculty
1:00 – 2:30	Responding to Victims of Human Trafficking Susan Ritter Victim Specialist, HSI SAC Baltimore Amelia Rubenstein, LGSW Clinical Research Specialist, Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative Jen Spry
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 5:00	Case Review Mitchell Goldstein, MD Faculty, Department of Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins CHAMP Program Faculty